

Message Text

SECRET

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61

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4600

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 LUSAKA 3292

NODIS

CHEROKEE

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR SCHAUFLE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR US ZA RH

SUBJ: KAUNDA REPLY TO SECRETARY'S LETTER

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER TO THE SECRETARY GIVEN ME THURSDAY
NIGHT BY PRES KAUNDA AT END OF CONVERSATION REPORTED SEPTEL.

DEAR MR SECRETARY,

I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR LETTER OF 7TH DECEMBER, 1976.
I MUST SAY THAT THIS WAS A MOST SURPRISING LETTER TO SAY THE
LEAST. I WAS GREATLY DISTURBED BY THE INFERENCE AND
INSINUATIONS THAT APPEARED TO CAST DOUBT ON OUR GOOD FAITH
RELATIVE TO THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS ON THE RESOLUTION
OF THE CONFLICT IN ZIMBABWE. YOUR MESSAGE WAS COUCHED IN
TERMINOLOGY WHICH IS MANIFESTLY UNACCEPTABLE.

I WANT TO MAKE IT QUITE CLEAR, MR. SECRETARY, THAT THREATS FROM
WHATEVER QUARTER MAKE NO IMPRESSION ON US. IN A WAY IT WAS
GOOD THAT THIS LETTER CAME THROUGH TO US AT THIS TIME BECAUSE
IT HAS REVEALED THAT WE HAVE, AFTER ALL, BEEN WORKING AT
CROSS PURPOSES IN THIS EXERCISE.

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YOU MENTION THAT THE CONCEPT OF SHARING POWER ON THE BASIS OF

A TWO-TIER SYSTEM WAS NEVER CHALLENGED. I WISH TO STATE THAT EQUAL FRANKNESS AND UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT NEITHER THE WORDS TWO-TIER SYSTEM NOR POWER SHARING ON THIS BASIS WERE EVER MENTIONED AT ANY ONE TIME DURING OUR CONVERSATIONS.

FURTHER, YOUR EMISSARIES HAD ASSURED ME AND YOU, YOURSELF, SAID LATER THAT THE 5 POINTS WHICH YOU NOW REFER TO WERE MERELY TALKING POINTS. THEY COULD NEVER BE CONSIDERED ON A TAKE-IT OR LEAVE IT BASIS; THIS IS THE IMPRESSION WE GAIN. FRANKLY, THIS WAS NOT OUR UNDERSTANDING AND THIS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN THE SPIRIT OF YOUR MESSAGE OF 31ST AUGUST AND 26TH SEPTEMBER, 1976. HOWEVER, I CONSIDER THAT THE MATTERS AT HAND ARE SO GRAVE AND THE STAKES SO HIGH THAT I SHOULD SET OUT THE BASIS UPON WHICH ZAMBIA GOT INVOLVED IN THE PRESENT EXERCISE.

FIRST, I WANT TO SAY THAT WE HAVE ALWAYS ACTED IN GOOD FAITH. WE AGREED TO CO-OPERATE IN THE FINDING OF A PEACEFUL SOLUTION EVEN THOUGH WE WERE ALREADY ON THE ROAD TO ARMED STRUGGLE. I INFORMED YOU ABOUT THIS DURING YOUR AFRICAN TOUR. INDEED, ON THE 27TH OF APRIL IN LUSAKA DURING A LUNCHEON WHICH I GAVE IN YOUR HONOUR, I EMBRACED YOU AT THE END OF YOUR SPEECH OUT OF RESPECT FOR WHAT YOU HAD SAID. MY EMBRACE WAS NOT A MATTER OF CEREMONY BUT A DEMONSTRATION OF THE DEPTH OF MY FEELINGS WHICH GREW WITH EVERY CONVERSATION AND COMMUNICATION WE HAD ON THE MATTERS AT HAND.

SECOND, THE CONVERSATIONS WHICH WE HAD WITH YOUR OFFICIALS, UNDER SECRETARY ROGERS AND AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLELE ON THE VARIOUS OCCASIONS LEFT US WITH THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT THE SMITH GOVERNMENT WOULD WITHDRAW IN FAVOUR OF A CARE-TAKER GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD IN TURN ANNOUNCE ITS ACCEPTANCE OF MAJORITY RULE AND CALL FOR DISCUSSIONS ON HOW TO IMPLEMENT MAJORITY RULE WITH THE NATIONALISTS. PRIOR TO YOUR DEPARTURE FOR PRETORIA WE WARNED YOU THAT SMITH WAS A VERY SLIPPERY CHARACTER WHO HAD DEFEATED EVERY MAJOR EFFORT BY SUCCESSIVE BRITISH GOVERNMENTS TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF ZIMBABWE. WE CAUTIONED ABOUT ANY MEETING THAT WOULD GIVE RESPECTABILITY TO SMITH. YOU ASSURED US THAT YOU DID NOT COME TO FAIL AND THAT IF WE HEARD THAT YOU HAD MET SMITH IT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED GOOD NEWS. ON YOUR RETURN, HOWEVER, WE

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NOTICED THAT YOU APPEARED TO HAVE GIVEN TO SMITH CERTAIN UNDERTAKINGS WHICH IT IS CLEAR FROM YOUR LETTER PROMPTED SMITH TO ACCEPT THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS.

THE THIRD POINT IS THAT THE CONVERSATIONS WHICH WE HAD WITH YOUR EMISSARIES AND THE CLEARLY ENCOURAGING PICTURE WHICH EMERGED WAS FURTHER BUTTRESSED BY YOUR LETTER OF 31ST AUGUST, 1976, IN WHICH YOU CLEARLY STATED:-

(A) THERE WOULD BE WITHDRAWAL OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT IN
FAVOUR OF A BLACK MAJORITY TRANSITION.
(B) THE DRAFTING OF A CONSTITUTION WHICH INCLUDES A BASIC
PROTECTION FOR MINORITY RIGHTS AND;
(C) FULL INDEPENDENCE UNDER MAJORITY RULE IN 18 MONTHS, 2
YEARS OR EARLIER.

THIS SET AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE CLEAR PICTURE
WE HAD GAINED WITH YOUR EMISSARIES EARLIER ABOUT THE SERIOUS-
NESS OF YOUR PROPOSALS CLEARLY INCREASED CREDIBILITY THAT YOU
HAD CHOSEN A PATH THAT WAS WORTH OUR SUPPORT.

IT WAS SINCERELY ON THIS BASIS AND OUT OF FAITH
IN YOUR ABILITY TO HONOUR YOUR WORD ONCE YOU GAVE IT THAT
WE AGREED TO GIVE OUR CO-OPERATION TO THE ANGLO-AMERICAN
PROPOSALS.

OUR CONFIDENCE WAS FURTHER INCREASED BY THE RE-
ASSURING MESSAGE WHICH YOU SENT ON THE 26TH OF SEPTEMBER,
1976, FOLLOWING SMITH'S BROADCAST TWO DAYS EARLIER. AT

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NODIS

CHEROKEE

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR SCHAUFLE

THIS TIME THE PRESIDENTS OF THE FRONTLINE COUNTRIES WERE
MEETING IN LUSAKA. AGAIN WHEN WE COMBINED YOUR REASSURING
STATEMENT OF 26TH SEPTEMBER, WITH THE SCENERIO THAT HAD

EMERGED WITH YOUR EMISSARIES, WE WERE SATISFIED THAT THERE WAS A CLEAR AND IRREVOCABLE COMMITMENT TO THE ROAD WHICH WE BELIEVED WE WERE TRAVERSING TOGETHER. THIS GAVE US FAITH AND PROVIDED FURTHER GROUND FOR OUR MAXIMUM CO-OPERATION. INDEED, ONLY RECENTLY AT THE OPENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE THE BRITISH CHAIRMAN IVOR RICHARD IN HIS OPENING REMARKS SAID AMONG OTHER THINGS - "WE ARE NOT CONCERNED WITH WHETHER THERE WILL BE MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA, WE ARE CONCERNED WITH WHEN AND HOW. WE ARE NOT DISCUSSING WHETHER POWER WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE MAJORITY, WE ARE DISCUSSING THE MODALITY OF THAT TRANSFER."

VERY LITTLE HAVE WE KNOWN THAT THERE HAS BEEN A GRAVE MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE INTERPRETATION OF THE CO-OPERATION WHICH WE HAVE GIVEN ALL ALONG IN THIS EXERCISE UNTIL MY CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR REINHARDT AND NOW YOUR LETTER OF DECEMBER 7. I MUST NOW AND EQUALLY FRANKLY SAY THAT WE HAVE GROUND TO BELIEVE THAT WE WERE MISLED. WE WERE CONVINCED THAT WE WERE TALKING THE SAME LANGUAGE WHEN IN FACT THIS WAS NOT SO. WE HAVE BEEN TALKING ON TWO DIFFERENT
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WAVELENGTHS.

IT IS NOT MY IMPRESSION THAT THE NATIONALISTS IN GENEVA ARE BEING UNREALISTIC. IN FACT THEIR PROPOSALS ARE VERY REASONABLE. THEY HAVE ASKED FOR A UNICAMERAL ARRANGEMENT SUPPORTED BY A BRITISH PRESENCE WHICH TOGETHER WOULD GIVE CONFIDENCE TO ALL THE RACES AND BUILD A FOUNDATION IN THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT UPON WHICH PEOPLE OF ALL RACES IN RHODESIA WOULD WORK TOGETHER TO BUILD PEACE ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY. WE ARE NOW BEING TOLD THAT THE NATIONALISTS' ATTITUDE DOES NOT PROVIDE GUARANTEES. BUT THERE ARE GUARANTEED SEATS FOR WHITES IN THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. THE REALITY OF THE RHODESIAN SITUATION ITSELF INCLUDING THE JUDICIARY, CIVIL SERVICE, ECONOMY AND OTHER STRATEGIC AREAS IN THE ZIMBABWE SOCIETY WILL ENSURE THAT THE WHITE COMMUNITY WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE A MEANINGFUL VOICE AND PROTECTION NOT ONLY IN THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD BUT IN THE PERIOD AFTERWARDS.

WE ARE BEING TOLD THAT ZIPA SHOULD RECONSIDER ITS POSITION. FRANKLY WE BELIEVE THAT THE PROPOSALS BEING PUT FORWARD BY THE NATIONALISTS ARE REALISTIC. WHAT SURPRISES ME IS THAT WHEN YOU DO NOT LIKE ANYTHING IT IS BEING LABELLED UNREALISTIC. ANYTHING ELSE THAT THE NATIONALISTS OFFER IS UNREALISTIC AND AMBIGUOUS. WHEN YOU ASSERT THAT YOU WANT A MODERATE AND RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT IN ZIMBABWE AND ONE WHICH WOULD NOT POSE A THREAT TO ZAMBIA, I MUST SAY THAT WE DO NOT NEED ANY GUIDANCE ABOUT WHAT OUR INTERESTS ARE OR WHAT IS BEST FOR US. WHO ARE WE TO CHOOSE A GOVERNMENT THAT WILL

GOVERN ZIMBABWE? THIS IS THE SACRED RIGHT OF THE SIX MILLION PEOPLE OF THAT COUNTRY.

IN ALL FRANKNESS, I AM NOT YET CONVINCED THAT WE ARE NOW BEING LED TO BELIEVE THAT YOUR PRESENT ATTITUDE IS REMINISCENT OF THE PAST POSTURE OF SUCCESSIVE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATIONS ON THE PROBLEMS OF THIS AREA. WE HAD WARNED ABOUT THIS, A WARNING WHICH YOU, YOURSELF ACKNOWLEDGED. BUT WE ARE NOW DEFINITELY WORRED THAT AGAIN AND IN SPITE OF ALL THAT HAS BEEN DONE ALREADY THE UNITED STATES MAY END UP BACKING THE WRONG HORSE.

IF THE PROGRAMME THAT WE BELIEVE WOULD GUARANTEE PEACE
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AND SECURITY FOR ALL IS NOW BEING LABELLED UNREALISTIC THEN WE ARE QUITE HAPPY TO GO ALONG THE PATH WHICH WE HAD CHOSEN BEFORE AND THAT IS THE PATH OF ARMED STRUGGLE. WE ARE NOT UNAWARE OF THE RISKS THAT ARE INVOLVED IN THE STRUGGLE. BUT WE IN ZAMBIA HAVE KNOWN NO PEACE AND OUR LIFE HAS BEEN DEDICATED TO SERVING THAT WHICH WE CONSIDER TO BE RIGHT AND JUST.

WE OPERATE ON PRINCIPLES AS YOU KNOW, MR. SECRETARY, BUT I MUST TELL YOU THAT ZAMBIA WILL GO DOWN FIGHTING ON THE SIDE OF RIGHT. WE WOULD LIKE TO DIE AS NOBLE MEN AND WOMEN. THIS IS WHY I SAID EARLIER THAT THREATS DO NOT IMPRESS US. WE SEEK A SOLUTION THAT ENDS THE WAR NOT HALF-MEASURES. THE GLOBAL PROBLEMS IN THE CONTEXT OF SOUTHERN AFRICA DEMAND THAT A SOLUTION THAT MEETS THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE OPPRESSED PEOPLE BE FOUND AND FOUND QUICKLY. THAT IS THE SOLUTION THAT WOULD END THE PRESENT CONFLICT. IF NOW THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DO NOT APPEAR TO SHARE OUR CONVICTION IN THIS PROBLEM THEY WILL END BY FIGHTING ON THE WRONG SIDE. THIS WILL NOT BE IN THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND OF WORLD PEACE.

LET US THEREFORE NOT DEAL WITH THE PAST, THERE IS A PROBLEM TO BE RESOLVED AT THE MOMENT. WE NEED A FORMULA THAT DOES NOT INSURE THE PLACE OF THE WHITE COMMUNITY IN THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT BUT THAT WHICH PROVIDES PROTECTION AND SAFETY FOR THEM FOR ALL TIME IN AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS NOW INDICATED THEIR PREPAREDNESS TO ESTABLISH A PRESENCE IN THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT. THEY WILL NEED ALL THE SUPPORT.

WARM REGARDS,
YOUR SINCERELY,
KAUNDA
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

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